firing capability. France has also agreed to supply Sub-launched version of the Exocet Missile (ASM 39). These are mainly anti-ship missiles and can be used against ships and off shore installations. These missiles are not considered against shore/coastal targets. M-11 missiles acquired by Pakistan from China can, however, be used against shore/coastal targets.

At the behest of the Prime Minister, a Task Force has been set up to pursue the acquisition of priority requirement of systems and weapons for the Navy in order to meet the threat posed by the recent acquisitions of hardware by Pakistan. The Task Force has in its report identified a number of steps as counter-measures against these Pakistani acquisitions.

(d) As per the charter of duties of Coast Guard, it is not required to have any missile system fitted on board Coast Guard ships and aircraft. The armament presently fitted on board these ships and aircraft is sufficient for the role envisaged.

(e) and (f). All developments having a bearing on the country's security are kept under constant observation by the Government and appropriate counter-measures are initiated from time to time to maintain defence preparedness. The Indian Navy is also re-equipped and modernised in keeping with the emerging threat perception.

*[English]*

**Priority to PIM**

1516. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given highest priority to the Participatory Irrigation Management in the irrigation field;

(b) if so, the steps the Government have taken to expedite the activities in this field;

(c) whether any special assistance is provided to States for the rehabilitation works to expedite the 'PIM' scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government of Gujarat intends to bring additional 20,000 hectares of land under the scheme wherein the rehabilitation cost involve about 15.00 crores of rupees, part of which is to be borne by the farmers;

(f) if so, whether the Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government to provide Rs. 10 crores as a special assistance; and

(g) if so, the action taken by the Government on the equest so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI IANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Union Government have given priority to Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM).

(b) The following steps have been taken to encourage farmers' Participation in the management of irrigation :

- Giving management subsidy to farmers' associations under Centrally sponsored Command Area Development Programme;
- Holding National Conferences and sponsoring State Level and Project Level Conferences on Participatory Irrigation Management with farmers' participation in the State and Project level to create awareness.
- Conducting training courses at national level for officers and at State level for officers and farmers;
- Providing States with guidelines and assisting them in preparation of Manuals for formation of associations and introducing amendments in Irrigation Acts;
- Advising State Governments to constitute High Level Working Groups to formulate policies and guidelines for constituting farmers' associations; and
- Setting up of "Working Group by Planning Commission on Participatory Irrigation Management for the IX Plan".

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise

(e) Yes, Sir. According to the information given by the State Government, the Government of Gujarat intend to bring additional 20,000 hectares of land under PIM scheme wherein the rehabilitation cost involved is Rs. 15.00 crore, part of which is to be borne by the farmers.

(f) The Government of Gujarat had requested the Planning Commission in February, 1996 to provide Rs. 10.00 crores as special assistance to promote Participatory Irrigation Management.

(g) The Planning Commission had communicated in March, 1996 to Government of Gujarat that the proposal could be discussed in detail at the time of finalisation of Annual Plan of the State for the year 1996-97; but, the issue was not raised when the above discussion was held.

**Promotion in I.R.C.C.**

1516. SHRI KARIA MUNDA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of eligible SC/ST in group 'A' debarred as per R and P Rules and postwise general employees promoted without vacancies during 1991-93 in I.R.C.C.;

(b) the reasons for not fulfilling assurances of USQ No. 644 dated December 12, 1994, CMD before Secy.,